

From the Trenton Federalist, May 17.

THE FOOLISH WAR.

By accounts from the Southward it appears that the British in the Chesapeake are beginning to carry on the war, which our rulers having seen fit to declare against them, in a manner quite contrary to the wishes and desires of the people in that quarter. They declare that if the people desire upon them when they land, that they will burn their houses and take their property—On the contrary, that if they conduct peaceably towards them, they shall not be injured in person or property. In consequence a number of buildings at Havre de Grace at the mouth of the Susquehanna, and Fredericktown and Georgetown, lying on Sassafras creek, all in Maryland, have been principally burnt. These proceedings the advocates of the war declare to be contrary to the rules of war—and inveigh against them with great vehemence and wrath. It may be so. I do not know much about the rules of war—but I believe that when we come to be called to an account in the great day of reckoning, that the killing of men will be found to be as great a crime in the view of him who sees not as man sees, as the burning of houses. Further, I would observe, that since we declared and commenced this war, we have had several accounts from the western states (Kentucky, Ohio, &c.) of our men going on expeditions into the Indian country, and burning whole Indian towns, & destroying their corn. When these accounts came and were published by our war printers, as "glorious victories," I do not remember that any of them complained that such proceedings were contrary to the rules of war, or that the perpetrators of them, were in any respect, worse than war-men in general.

MR. JOHN RANDOLPH.

Character of Mr. J. Randolph, drawn by Mr. William Thompson brother of the celebrated author of *Curtius*.

His appearance is by no means prepossessing;—he is considerably below the common stature, without symmetry of shape. His manners, haughty and supercilious, excite a personal prejudice against him, which nothing but a long and intimate acquaintance can remove. Mr. Randolph is not calculated for popular association; the commanding superiority of his colloquial talents may force from the audience his convictions of their judgment, but he leaves their circle without having awakened one sentiment of affection in their breasts. He is not content to use the victory which superior talents and extensive information insure, over those who encounter him in debate; with seeming moderation, his adversary is made to feel the mortification of defeat. In the eloquence of Mr. Randolph, there is nothing persuasive; it would seem as if the energy of his mind could never stoop to the arts of oratory; the animation of his manner, the dignified chastity of his style, the strong and perspicuous view which he always takes of his subject, command from his audience the most profound attention in debate. Mr. Randolph is not indebted to fancy—his style of oratory is superior to the decorations of a brilliant imagination—he exhibits his subject naked—it has the nerve of *Hercules*, and is not relaxed by a single feature of *Adonis*.

With the most powerful talents, with superior cultivation of mind, and with the most unsuspected sincerity in the expression of all his opinions, Mr. Randolph is not calculated for a popular leader. The arts of conciliation are unknown to him; governed by the dictates of his own manly judgement, he cannot conceive that dependence which the minds of others feel upon it. It is thus that he has never been known to consult to advise, or compromise. His propositions are original; they are bro't forward without one inquiry of who is to support or who is to oppose them. Conscious of the purity of his own intentions, and satisfied with the correctness of his own judgement, he wishes not to defend the one, he seeks not to confirm the other, by his personal popularity. Individually there is no man in the district who is not better known, or whose manners and habits are not more pleasing to the people than Mr. Randolph's. It is probable that if his election were put on that issue, he would never have held a seat in Congress. About him there is an atmosphere of repulsion, which few dare to penetrate; but he who has the firmness to do it is eminently rewarded. The principles of Mr. Randolph are modelled on the finest scale of virtue and rectitude. Ardent and affectionate in his disposition, he is susceptible of strong and permanent friendships. His private history abounds with evidences of the most humane and philanthropic feelings. Although Mr. Randolph possesses general information he cannot be considered a literary character. Except a minute knowledge of history and geography, his reading has been otherwise superficial. The wit of Mr. Randolph is keen, and too often indulged without regard to its effect on the feelings of others—sometimes, however, its application is peculiarly happy. Dr. Dana, once observed, in the presence of Mr. R. that they were waiting for their staking library (alluding to Dr. Mitchell).

* This is a mistake, Mr. R. is rather above the common stature.—Editors Gaz.

ell.) "Sir," said Mr. Randolph, "I heard him just now enquire for his index."

Such was the man selected as foreman of the grand jury on Burr's trial—perhaps none could have been chosen more capable of passing a judgment between the United States and a citizen. He has held a distinguished rank in his country; and although the shades of political opinion have been unfortunately colored with asperities, his truth, his justice, his patriotism, have remained without a stain.

THE CURATE.

The following elegant and highly finished portrait of the character of a country clergyman, is extracted from a popular novel, entitled "The Wild Irish Boy." By Dennis Jasper Murphy.

His name was Corbett. He had been a curate six and forty years. He sought not to be any thing else. The religion he possessed had taught him, "Having food and raiment, to be therewith content;" and the same influence extending to his habits, had enabled him by temperance and prudence, to obtain all he thought necessary in life. He was married, and had a son whom he himself had educated; and who, like himself, was in the ministry. When I speak of the effects of his mode of prayer and preaching, I speak of the effects I witnessed in the course of a constant attendance on him. He never read prayers; he prayed, and with such deep and fervent feeling, with emphasis so obviously suggested, not by the art, but by the nature of supplication; with pauses so strongly marked by solemnity of recollection, & a suspension of the act, without a suspension of the feeling, that his congregation almost unconsciously joined in the responses, which were originally intended for their utterance, and felt the force of habit and of indolence yield to the holy energy with which he poured out his petitions.

I never heard a man preach as he did. He was a scholar, to whom few I have ever met were superior. He was a man delighting in conversation, in which, if light, he could amuse, and if argumentative, he could instruct, more than any man I ever listened to. But in the pulpit, he had a wisdom of words, and the weapons of fleshly warfare altogether. That he was a scholar you felt not; you felt not that he was a man of rich imagination, or of strong reasoning powers; you felt not that he or his discourse could be referred to any class of mind or composition, that could assist you to judge of them in a temporal sense. But you felt irresistibly that he was a believer, pleading with the power of conviction; that he was a religiousist, speaking from experience, commending a life he lived and a felicity he felt; that he spoke and acted on principles, which though beyond the range of existence were not beyond the range of reality; principles which he made present and vivid, and substantial, alike by the force of eloquence, and the force of example. He was a speaker, who, of all others I ever heard, succeeded most in averting your attention from himself to his subject. It was long after his sermons had concluded that you could think of the preacher; like the priest in the Jewish hierarchy, he disappeared in the cloud of incense himself sent up.

The Christianity he preached, was such as a man would preach, who, abstracted from the influence of prejudice, and habit, and self wisdom, had sought his system in revelation alone, and found and formed it there. It was neither a frame of doctrinal niceties, curiously constructed and totally unfit for use; nor a formulary of habitual observances, at which the constant attendance of the body may excuse the absence of the mind. It was a system, of which the principles were operative, in which opinion held its relation to practice—Christianity was described as a dispensation, exhibiting certain facts to the belief; and the belief, if subdued by these facts, suggesting the most important and active consequences to our minds and our lives. It may be thought there was something in this mode of representation too argumentative and consequential for the comprehension of a rustic audience—it was not so. Though his positions were strong and important, they were clothed in a language whose peculiar and providential facility is, that it is the universal language; the first language that religion talks to the ear of infancy, the language that genius reverences, & ignorance understands, the language of the poet and of the saint, the language of divinity and of the heart, the language of the scriptures.

He spoke as a father pleading with a wayward child; he spoke as a judge with a criminal, to confess and be forgiven; as a guide with a wanderer, to return and to rest.

When he finished his sermon, it was not with Cowper's "well bred whisper." He appeared for some time engaged in prayer; an effusion of mind so solemn and deep, that most of the audience voluntarily joined in it, those who did not, were awed and silent. When he came down, and walked among us, the thunder of his eloquence was hushed, his countenance spoke still. He had descended from the mount, but his visage retained the brightness of that high place.

WASHINGTON CITY, May 22.

MOBILE IN OUR POSSESSION.

[FROM A PRIVATE LETTER.]

Mobile, April 18, 1813.

This place is happily in the possession of the United States. It is an event which we have long anxiously looked for; but in my mind there has always, with hope, been a mixture of fear, that, whenever it took place, it might be accompanied with a considerable destruction of private property, if not the entire desolation of the town. By the secrecy and judicious arrangements with which Gen. Wilkinson has conducted the business, the good has been accomplished without any intermixture of evil, and the government has been transferred without the smallest loss of blood or treasure, although it is clearly ascertained that the Spaniards had contemplated a vigorous resistance.

NORTH WESTERN ARMY.

Copy of a letter from Gen. W. H. Harrison to the Secretary of War.

Head Quarters, Camp Meigs, 9th May 1813.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you that the enemy having been several days making preparations for raising the siege of this post, accomplished this day the removal of their artillery from the opposite bank, and about 12 o'clock left their encampment below, were soon embarked and out of sight. I have the honor to enclose you an agreement entered into between Gen. Proctor and myself for the discharge of the prisoners of the Kentucky militia in his possession, and for the exchange of the effies and men of the regular troops which were respectively possessed by us. My anxiety to get the Kentucky troops released as early as possible, induced me to agree to the dismissal of all the prisoners I had, although there was not as many of ours in Gen. Proctor's possession. The surplussage is to be accounted for, and an equal number of ours released from their parole, whenever the government may think proper to direct it.

The two actions on this side the river on the 5th, were infinitely more important and more honorable to our arms, than I had at first conceived. In the sortie made upon the left flank, Capt. Waring's company of the 19th regt. a detachment of 12 months' volunteers under major Alexander, and three companies of Kentucky militia under colonel Boswell, defeated at least double the number of Indians and British militia.

The sortie on the right was still more glorious; the British batteries in that direction were defended by the grenadier and light infantry companies of the forty first regt. amounting to 200 effectives and two companies of militia, flanked by a host of Indians. The detachment sent to attack those consisted of all the men off duty belonging to the companies of Creghan and Bradford of the 17th regt. Latham Elliott's (late Graham's) and Waring's of the 19th, about eighty of major Alexander's volunteers, and a single company of Kentucky militia under captain Selby, amounting in the whole to not more than 340. Yet the event of the action was not a moment doubtful, and had not the British troops been covered in their retreat by their allies, the whole of them would have been taken.

It is not possible for troops to behave better than ours did throughout—all the officers exerted themselves to execute our orders, and the enemy, who had a full view of our operations from the opposite shore, declared that they had never seen so much work performed in so short a time.

To all the commanders of corps I feel particularly obligations. These were colonel Miller of the 19th infantry, col. Mills of the Ohio militia, major Stedward of the artillery, major B. H. of the dragoons, and major Johnson of the Kentucky militia. Capt. Gratiot of the engineers having been for a long time much indisposed, the task of fortifying this post devolved on capt. Wood. It could not have been placed in better hands. Permit me to recommend him to the President, and to assure you that any mark of his approbation bestowed on capt. Wood, would be highly gratifying to the whole of the troops who witnessed his arduous exertions.

From major Hukill, acting inspector general, my aid-de-camp major Graham, licut. O'Fallon, who has done the duty of assistant adjutant general in the absence of major Adams, and my volunteer aid-de-camp John Johnson, Esq. I received the most useful assistance.

I have the honor to enclose you a list of the killed and wounded during the siege and in the two sorties; those of the latter were much greater than I had at first expected.

Want of sleep and exposure to the continued rains which have fallen almost every day for some time past, renders me incapable of mentioning many interesting particulars; amongst others a most extraordinary proposition of genl. Proctor's, on the subject of the Indians within our boundary—this shall form the subject of a communication to be made to-morrow or next day, and for which I will provide a safer conveyance than that which carries this. All the prisoners and deserters agree in saying that the information given to maj. Stedward, by Ryand, of the British having launched a sloop of war this spring, is

incorrect, and the most of them at the one which is now building will be launched for many weeks.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your humble servant.

WM. HENRY HARRISON.

Hon John Armstrong, Sec'y of War.
P. S. Capt Price of the regt light artillery, and the 50 regulars, prisoners with gen. Proctor, were taken on the N. W. side of the river, with the Kentucky militia. We had no prisoners taken on this side during the siege.

This is to give notice, that Colin Hayco is no longer employed in my service.

Rush: Washington.

Mount Vernon, May 23, 1813.

Lawson & Fowle,
Have just received—and for Sale,
220 Boxes fresh
RAISINS.

May 24

FOR SALE,

A TRACT of LAND, lying in the county of Fairfax, six miles from Alexandria, and adjoining the estate of Gen. Thomson Mason, containing 46 acres. The soil is good and very susceptible of improvement by the Clover and Plaster system. The proximity of this property to market and the facility with which its produce may be carried (Hunting-Creek by which it is bounded being navigable almost to the door) would render it extremely valuable to a person disposed to pay sufficient attention to his cultivation.

A party of Land is to be Enquired to Francis Adams, jun.

May 22

Boot and Shoe Blacking.

JOHN SON

RESPECTFULLY informs the gentlemen of Alexandria, that he has taken a stand near the corner of Royal, on King street, under Mr. Griffith's store, where he intends carrying on the business of Blacking Boots and Shoes, and Cleaning Fair Tops.

Having followed the business in the northern cities, for some time past, he flatters himself he shall be able to give entire satisfaction to his employers, in respect to neatness, despatch and the excellent quality of his blacking. He will wait on gentlemen in the morning for their boots and shoes, which he will return in the course of the day, or immediately to those who desire it. His mode of cleaning preserves the shape of the boot, and his blacking softens and enriches the leather.

May 18

PUBLIC SALE.

UNDER the authority of a decree of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, held at Alexandria, in the case of John Withers against Richard Lewis, the subscriber will offer at public sale on the premises, at 4 o'clock P. M. on Monday, the seventh day of next month, several valuable improved Lots on the north side of King street and west side of Washington street, extending from the intersection of the said streets one hundred feet in front on Washington street, and seventy one feet right inches and an half in front on King street. The sale will be made for cash.

R. I. Taylor, Commr.

May 22

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Orphans' Court,

Alexandria County, May Term, 1813.
ORDERED, that the executor of Lastley Matthews do insert the following advertisement three times in the Alexandria newspapers.

A Copy—Test

A. Moore, Reg.

This is to give notice, that the subscriber of Alexandria County, in the District of Columbia, has obtained from the Orphans' Court of the said county letters testamentary on the estate of the Rev. Lastley Matthews, deceased; all persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same to the subscriber duly authenticated and passed by the said Court on or before the 21st day of November next, or they may by law be excluded from all benefit to said estate; and those indebted thereto, are required to make immediate payment. Given under my hand this 21st day of May, 1813.

Isaac Robbins,

Executor of Lastley Matthews.

May 21

31

BANK OF POTOMAC,
April 30th 1813.

NOTICE is hereby given the Stockholders of the Bank of Potomac, that a dividend of 4 per cent. on the Capital Stock has been declared for the last six months, which will be paid them or their representatives, on Tuesday next the 4th May.

By order of the President & Directors.
C. Page, Cashier.

May 1.